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KAREN V. NOYCE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Duluth, Minnesota (February 18th, 2015) – Karen V. Noyce Minnesota Wildlife Biologist (retired) recently received the 2014 **Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award** from the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society at its annual meeting in Duluth, MN. The Wildlife Society is a professional organization dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to represent and serve wildlife professionals—the scientists, technicians, students and practitioners actively working to study, manage, and conserve native and desired non-native wildlife and their habitats worldwide.

First presented in 2009 **The Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award** recognizes a professional woman or outstanding female graduate or undergraduate student who exemplifies the consummate natural resource scientist. Known and respected for her broad knowledge of Minnesota's ecology, plants and animals, her professionalism and integrity Dr. Boe was a MNTWS leader for many years. She died in 2007 after a 14-year career with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a Botanist and Plant Ecologist.

Karen V. Noyce researched and studied Minnesota black bears for over 33 years. She is well known and highly regarded among the public the news media and her peer biologists as an authority on bears in North America. She has published 16 peer-reviewed scientific papers on black bears and presented her research findings at numerous bear conferences and workshops.

Following completion of her MS thesis project at the University of Minnesota Duluth on red fox she began her wildlife career in 1981 working as a seasonal labor for Minnesota DNR's Forest Wildlife Populations & Research Group in Grand Rapids, MN. Promoted to a Wildlife Research Biologist in 1983 Karen retired in December 2014.

Her research on the availability and relationship of natural foods to various aspects of the ecology and management of Minnesota black bears led to her pioneering research assessing body condition and its relationship to their subsequent reproduction. More recently, she conducted a thorough review of the long-distance movements of Minnesota's black bears. This truly groundbreaking research in bear biology led to these movements correctly being called migrations.

Karen is active in the governing Council of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA), where she was instrumental in building a charitable fund to support bear

conservation programs around the world. The only professional society for bear researchers and managers; she previously served as Vice President and is now serving as President. She has been an active member of the MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society for decades serving on the Forest Issues Committee. Most notably as a member of the Forest Issues Committee she reviewed the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on proposed accelerated aspen harvest and the impacts on forest wildlife and ecology.

A natural teacher and excellent communicator Karen has helped thousands of people in Minnesota learn about and appreciate conserving and managing natural resources. As a woman in a field that was male-centric for years, she has been a role model for many girls and young women aspiring to work in the field of natural resource management and research and a mentor to all aspiring biologists in Minnesota and around the world.

Karen's love for the natural wonders of Minnesota inspired her life's work and she spent her entire career working to conserve resources that make Minnesota a special place. She is a consummate wildlife professional that has made significant contributions to wise natural resource management policy and public understanding. It is difficult to measure her impact as a teacher, mentor, and role model her passion to teach what she knew about natural history and ecology of bears, and convey the mysteries yet unsolved, never waned.



Photo caption: Karen V. Noyce receives the MNTWS 2014 Dr. Janet S. Boe Memorial Award from Dave Garshelis.